

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

-----180919Z 058244 /11

P 180754Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9898

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7580

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HERRERA CASE

SUMMARY: ON MAY 18, MRS. HERRERA WAS CHARGED WITH BELONGING TO COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION, PARTICIPATING IN UNAUTHORIZED MASS ACTIONS AND USING AN ALIAS TO AVOID ARREST. HER ATTORNEY, WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN 15 DAYS TO ANSWER CHARGES, ANTICIPATES NEXT HEARING WILL BE JUNE 7. MRS. HERRERA POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED LT. EDUARDO MATILLANO AS HER TORTURER IN LINEUP AT CAMP CRAME MAY 17. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 18, SENATOR RODRIGO, MRS. HERRERA'S LAWYER, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SHE HAD BEEN CHARGED BEFORE THREE-MAN MILITARY INVESTIGATION PANEL EARLIER THAT MORNING. CHARGES ARE A) BEING OFFICER AT ZOTO, DESCRIBED AS "COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION," B) PARTICIPATING AND INCITING OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNAUTHORIZED MASS ACTIONS, AND C) USING ALIAS TO AVOID ARREST. RODRIGO WAS GIVEN COPY OF CHARGES ONLY THIS MORNING. WHEN PANEL SUGGESTED HEARINGS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, HE REPLIED HE NEEDED TIME TO STUDY THEM AND WAS GIVEN 15 DAYS. RODRIGO ANTICIPATES NEXT HEARING WILL BE JUNE 7.

2. LINEUP, AT WHICH MRS. HERRERA POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED LT. EDUARDO MATILLANO AS INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD TORTURED HER, WAS
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HELD AFTERNOON MAY 17 AT CAMP CRAME. SHE DID NOT IDENTIFY ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS. RODRIGO ASKED FOR SECOND LINEUP, BUT MILITARY REFUSED. RODRIGO SAID SINCE MATILLANO POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED, MILITARY SHOULD BE ABLE DETERMINE FROM HIM OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN TORTURE. RODRIGO SAID METROCOM AUTHORITIES AT FIRST WANTED MRS. HERRERA TO VIEW LINEUP ALONE, BUT THAT HE PREVAILED UPON GENREAL ZAFRA TO ALLOW

HIM (RODRIGO) AND HIS SON TO OBSERVE IDENTIFICATION.

3. IN RELATED MOVE MAY 17, DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY CRISOL, WHO SUPERVISES OFFICE FOR DETAINEE AFFAIRS, DIRECTED MILITARY AND POLICE TO ADHERE TO GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON HUMANE AND DECENT TREATMENT OF DETAINEES. DIRECTIVE WAS ISSUED ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PRESIDENT IN FORM OF MEMORANDUM TO AFP CHIEF OF STAFF ESPINO. ESPINO WAS ORDERED TO CONDUCT A VIGOROUS TROOP INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR DISCIPLINE. SPECIFICALLY CITING HERRERA CASE. CRISOL DIRECTED CONTINUING COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW TO GUARD AGAINST MALTREATMENT OF DETAINEES. CRISOL DIRECTIVE ALSO STATED IN INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS OF MALTREATMENT THERE SHOULD BE NO COVER-UP OR WHITEWASHING. HE WARNED THOSE VIOLATING THESE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY. CRISOL DIRECTIVE ALSO RAISES POSSIBILITY OF REVISING CURRENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES TO ENSURE JUSTICE WHILE PROTECTING INNOCENT FROM EXTREME OR ARBITRARY ACTION. CRISOL DIRECTIVE ALSO REFERRED TO PREVIOUSLY ISSUED ORDERS BY DND SECRETARY ENRILE ON PROPER HANDLING OF DETAINEES. WE WILL SECURE CRISOL DIRECTIVE AND POUCH DEPARTMENT.

4. WASHINGTON POST STRINGER WIDEMAN TOLD EMBOFF MAY 17 POST STILL ASKING FOR STORIES ON HERRERA CASE. WIDEMAN HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE INFOSEC TATAD ABOUT CASE TODAY, MAY 18. WIDEMAN'S PRINCIPAL INTEREST SEEMS TO BE ESTABLISHING LEVEL AT WHICH WE APPROACHED GOP, ALTHOUGH REUTER'S BICKLER SPECULATES CORRECTLY (STATE 113066). WIDEMAN SAID WHEN HE ASKED TATAD WHY GOP HAD RESPONDED SO QUICKLY IN HERRERA CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE, TATAD CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS FIRST INSTANCE WHERE GOP HAD RECEIVED MODERATE, COMPREHENSIVE LETTER DETAILIN CHARGES, DATES, PLACES, ETC.

5. IN ZOTO ANNUAL ELECTION MAY 15, MRS. HERRERA WAS UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED HEAD OF ORGANIZATION.

6. COMMENT: SENATOR RODRIGO HAS PROMISED TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON HIS SIDE. IN ADDITION, WE SHALL REMAIN ALERT TO ENSURE GOP IS AWARE OUR INTEREST IN CASE HAS NOT WANED. DESCRIPTION OF ZOTO AS COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION SEEMS FARFETCHED, EVEN BY GOP MILITARY INTELLIGENCE STANDARDS. ATENEO JESUITS WERE EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN ESTABLISHING ZOTO, AS WAS CURRENT MILITARY VICAR BISHOP GAVIOLA. MRS. HERRERA WAS VISITOR AT MALACANANG IN HER CAPACITY AS ZOTO PRESIDENT. SHE ALSO SERVED AS INTERLOCUTOR WHEN POPE PAUL VISITED TONDO.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2472324
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HERRERA CASE SUMMARY: ON MAY 18, MRS. HERRERA WAS CHARGED WITH BELONGING TO COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION, PARTICIPATING IN UNA
TAGS: SHUM, RP, (HERRERA, TRINIDAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8d5e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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